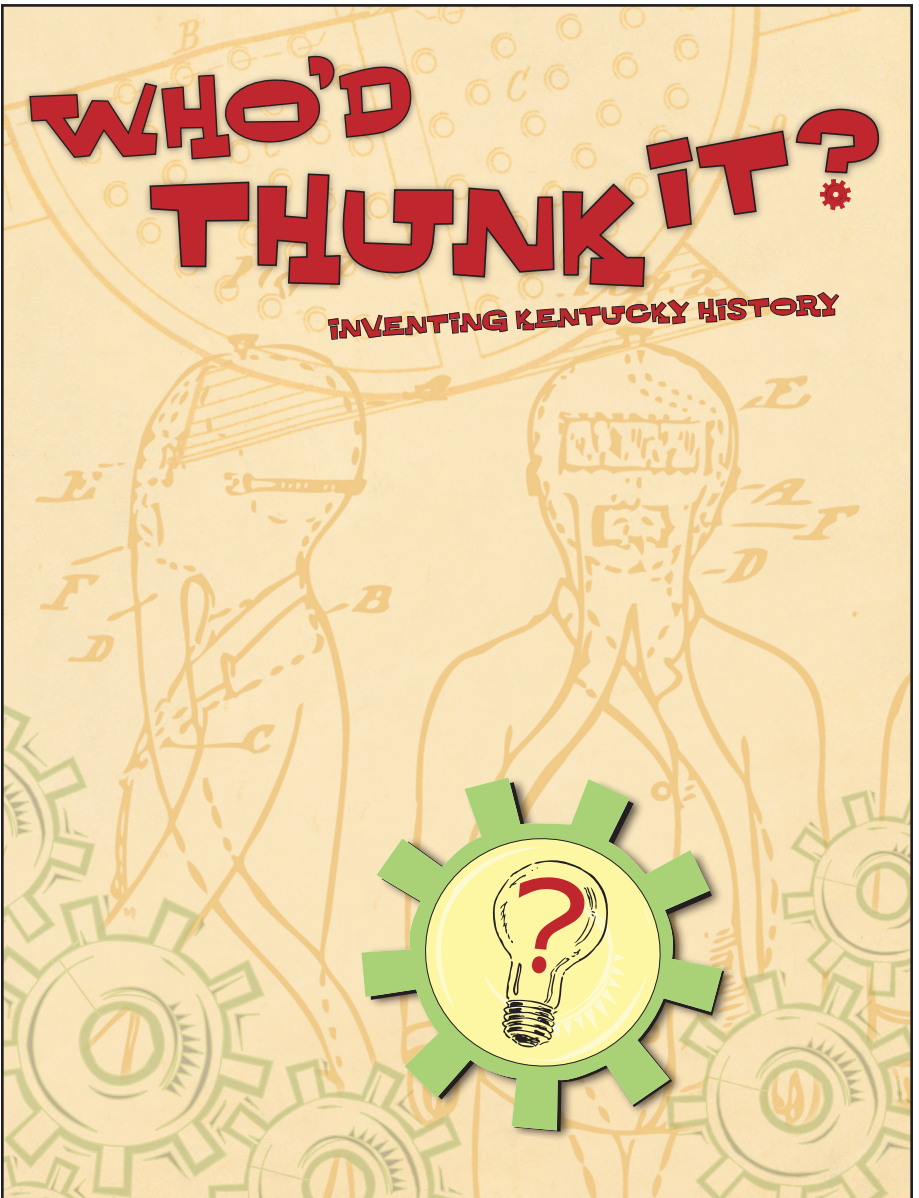


MUSEUM THEATRE

KentuckyHistoricalSociety



KentuckyHistoricalSociety

100 West Broadway • Frankfort, Ky. • 40601 • 502.564.1792 • www.history.ky.gov

Connections. Perspective. Inspiration.



The Kentucky Historical Society is an agency of
the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet.

www.history.ky.gov

WHO'D THUNK IT?

INVENTING KENTUCKY HISTORY

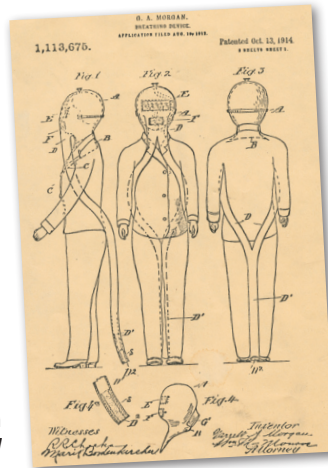
Experiment with Professor Kenton Kee as he shares a series of stories about Kentucky inventors and their amazing inventions while battling his own creative contraption in a desire to define the inventive process. During the 20-minute play, he and his machine illustrate the inventions, discover the mysteries, and answer the questions inventors often ask themselves on the path to enlightenment!

From Bibb lettuce to the traffic light, along with early attempts at radio transmission and flight, Kentuckians have made outstanding contributions to American life. Some have gone down in history, and others have been forgotten. The inventors recognized in *Who'd Thunk It?* include:

- Charles P. Ball, Danville - patented an improvement for vaporizers in 1879
- John Bibb, Frankfort - cultivated Bibb lettuce in 1854
- Joel Cheek, Burkesville - created coffee blend Maxwell House coffee in 1892
- Thomas Edison, Louisville - displayed lightbulbs at the Southern Exposition, 1883
- John Fitch - designed a steam-powered boat in 1780s, funded by self drawn maps of Kentucky
- Margaret and John Kaelin, Louisville – first served cheeseburgers in 1934
- Garrett Morgan, Paris - patented the gas mask in 1914 and the electric stoplight in 1923
- Mathew Sellers, Carter County - flew his quadropplane in 1908
- Nathan Stubblefield, Murray - broadcast and received audio messages in 1902
- Thomas Tobin, Richmond - credited with creating mirror illusions, 1878

KHS Museum Theatre

Since 1998, the Museum Theatre program has staged more than forty original productions, often inspired by the rich resources in the Kentucky Historical Society collection. Each play is presented within KHS exhibition spaces and is designed to connect audiences with the sights, sounds, and stories of the past. These professional productions provide museum visitors with a personal perspective of historical characters and encourage them to explore the exhibitions to learn more. Audience members often find they relate to the story itself. *What's your story?*

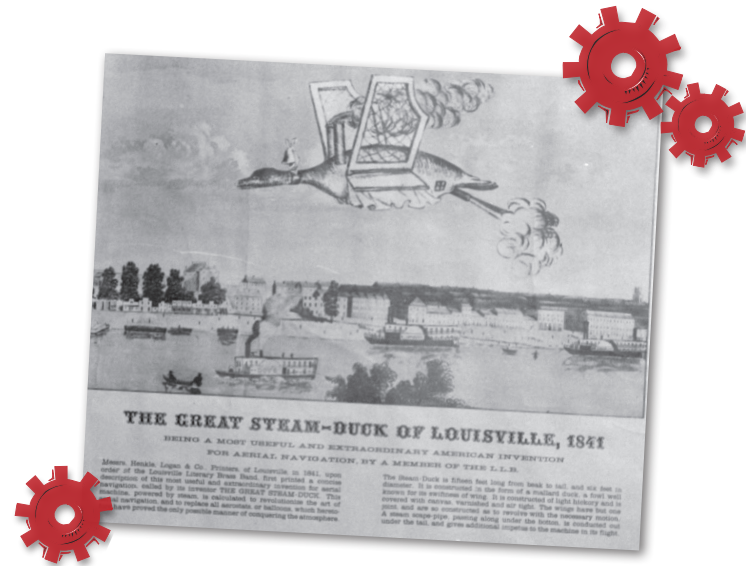


Learn:

- Lochte, Bob. *Kentucky Farmer Invents Wireless Telephone! But Was It Radio?*.
- *Facts and Folklore about Nathan Stubblefield*. Murray, Kentucky. 2001.
- Boyd, Thomas. *Poor John Fitch*. New York. 1935.
- St. George, Judith. *So You Want To Be An Inventor*. New York. 2002.

Experience:

- Mathew Sellers "quadropplane" at the Kentucky Aviation Museum, Lexington.
- Thomas Tobin inventions at the Madison County Historical Society, Richmond.
- "<http://www.si.edu/lemelson/>" www.si.edu/lemelson/
- "<http://web.mit.edu/invent/>" <http://web.mit.edu/invent/>



Professor Kenton Kee / Playwright – Greg Hardison

Since 1999, KHS museum theatre coordinator, Greg Hardison, has created magical experiences for guests visiting the Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort. A classically trained magician and clown, Greg loves to entertain children of all ages and has received awards for his work in Florida, Virginia, and Kentucky. He currently serves on the board for the International Museum Theatre Alliance. This is for Alex and Bella!

Director – Mike Thomas

Mike spent eight years as the KHS Museum Theatre coordinator and two years as director of the Capital Arts Center in Bowling Green, before returning to his hometown of Maysville as director of the Washington Opera House. Mike completed his theatre studies at Western Kentucky University and since that time has served as an arts administrator, educator, director, and performer for a variety of performing groups.

Special Thanks: Lynne Hollingsworth, Gretchen Haney, Mary Winter – KHS Special Collections, Jim Steinmeyer – Magic inventor, historian and Disney Imagineer.

Prop design and construction: David Rose and Greg Hardison, KHS based in part on illusions designed by Thomas Tobin.

Photo credits: Cover and Inside left: Patent drawing of Garrett Morgan's gas mask. Above: "The Great Steam-Duck of Louisville," 1841.